

STEREO

JM-6012

THE VOICE OF

JOHNNY HORTON



Words

Shadows on the Bayou
Banks of the Nile
My Home in Shelby County
Barefoot Boy Blues
Old Gobbler
Done Rovin'
It's A Long Rocky Road
Smoke Joe's Barbecue
Devilish Love Night



Photograph by kind permission of the Johnny Horton Memorial Fan Club.

The Voice of Johnny Horton

The late evening stretches into the long, lonesome middle of the night, made even more lonely by the deserted highway. A car speeds through those tired hours — another country music troubadour swiftly glides along the road that leads home from a one-nighter hundreds of miles away. Suddenly the soft hum of the engine is shattered in a crash of twisted metal and sprinkling glass. Johnny Horton is dead, as one classic country song puts it, in a "Wreck on the Highway."

That was on November 5, 1960 and the word was flashed by the press wire services throughout the country and to Nashville, Tenn., where country music folk from everywhere were gathered for the annual country music festival sponsored by radio station WSM there. The great, far-flung country music family was shocked beyond words at the tragedy. Yet Horton, like numerous of his country music colleagues and compatriots, before and since, died in the line of duty. Long auto hops, bus trips and plane flights from one distant city to another are an unwelcome part of the game for any big country music artist.

But like most of the others — Buddy Holly, Richie Valens, the Big Bopper, Patsy Cline, Hawshaw Hawkins, Cowboy Copas and Hank Williams, to mention just a few of those who are with Johnny Horton in the promised land, Johnny's songs and records remain with us as a living monument to the greatness of his talent. Such songs as "The Battle of New Orleans," "Sink the Bismarck," "When It's Springtime in Alaska" and "North to Alaska," are part of the standard country repertoire today.

Again like many of his contemporaries, Johnny was a Texan, (Tyler was his early home) and he went to college in his home state, at Baylor University. It was there that he first began writing songs, which he would sing for his friends, accompanying himself on the guitar his Mother had first taught him to play when he was only 11 years old. After college, when he was living in Southern California, Johnny took a dare from a friend to enter a singing contest at the Harmony Park Corral in Anaheim. Not only did he win with his performance of all the tunes he knew at the time, but he was heard by a group of recording men as well, who helped him get a coveted spot on "Home Town Jamboree," an El Monte radio program which featured Tennessee Ernie Ford and Cliffie Stone as the co-masters of ceremonies.

This valuable exposure generated an immediate fandom for Johnny and his widening group of followers quickly took to his first recordings, made with a West Coast recording company. Later, Johnny became a star with the famous Louisiana Hayride program in Shreveport, Louisiana, a city which he made his permanent home. It was in Shreveport too, where Johnny became associated with his manager, Tillman Franks, one of the most respected men in the country talent field, who directed Johnny's burgeoning recording activity.

Fortunately, there is a great treasure house of recorded material from the Johnny Horton catalog. By special arrangement, some of the very best of the Horton repertoire has been gathered for this fine collection. Such memorable titles as "Smokey Joe's Barbecue," "Barefoot Blues," "Shadows on the Bayou," and the prophetic "Done Rovin'," are certain to please all fans of the late, great stylist, Johnny Horton.

Ren Grevatt
Music Business Manager



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The Voice Of
JOHNNY HORTON

JS-6012-A

STEREO

1. DONE ROVIN'
2. IT'S A LONG ROCKY ROAD
3. SMOKEY JOE'S BARBECUE
4. DEVILISH LOVE LIGHT
5. WORDS

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HILLTOP

RECORDS

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The Voice Of
JOHNNY HORTON

JS-6012-B

STEREO

1. SHADOWS OF THE BAYOU
2. BANKS OF THE NILE
3. MY HOME IN SHELBY COUNTY
4. BAREFOOT BOY BLUE
5. OLD GOBBLER

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